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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Report of the Second Committee (Part XIII)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 91 (see A/48/717, para. 2). Action to be taken on questions not related to a specific sub-item was considered at the 15th, 42nd, 46th to 48th meetings, on 20 October, 29 November, 10 and 13 December 1993. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.15, 42, 46-48)

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.3 and L.67

2. At the 15th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, China and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the report of the South Commission" (A/C.2/48/L.3), which read as follows:

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* The report on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/C.2/48/717 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 46/155 of 19 December 1991, in which it recognized the relevance of the report entitled The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission 1/ in addressing the challenges of the South in the 1990s, especially the North-South dialogue, trade, finance, technology, regional cooperation and integration among developing countries,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on developments pertaining to the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the South Commission with special emphasis on South-South economic cooperation, 2/ which was prepared pursuant to resolution 46/155 and which recommended a comprehensive approach to the questions of South-South cooperation,

"Welcoming the support given by the United Nations Development Programme in distributing 2,000 copies of the report of the South Commission in developing countries,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the implementation of its resolution 46/155 and to report thereon, as appropriate, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

"2. Considers that a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of South-South cooperation world wide is required to stimulate intergovernmental debate, decisions and actions within the United Nations system and would be of special value in promoting such cooperation within and between regions of the South, and globally;

"3. Decides that a regular and comprehensive biennial report entitled 'State of South-South cooperation' should be prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, building on the model embodied in the report of the Secretary-General; 2/

"4. Decides further that such a report should encompass all aspects of South-South cooperation, that it should contain the necessary quantitative data and indicators, including information on the support given by multilateral financial institutions for South-South cooperation activities, programmes and projects;

"5. Requests the organs, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the regional commissions, to contribute to the preparation of this report;

1/ New York, Oxford University Press, 1990. For an overview and summary of the report of the South Commission, see A/45/810 and Corr.1, annex.

2/ A/48/350.

"6. Calls upon regional and subregional organs to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in preparing the report and to provide him with analytical and empirical materials, as necessary;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session the first of such reports on the state of South-South cooperation and to give the report wide and timely publicity and distribution;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to bear in mind the relevance of the report of the South Commission in elaborating an agenda for development."

3. At the 46th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Ryzinski (Poland), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.67), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.3.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67 without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.3 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.28 and Rev.1

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of Australia, China, Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and New Zealand, joined by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership" (A/C.2/48/L.28) which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the validity of the objectives and commitments on development adopted by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies, especially the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 3/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/ the Declaration on the Right

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3/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

4/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

to Development, 5/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 6/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 7/ the Cartagena Commitment, 8/ the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, 9/ which provide an overall framework for furthering international economic cooperation for development,

"Noting the ongoing work of the Secretary-General in the preparation of a report on an agenda for development, as requested in General Assembly resolution 47/181, of 22 December 1992,

"Recognizing the trends towards regional cooperation and integration, interdependence of nations and the globalization of economic issues and problems,

"Convinced that universal peace, security and prosperity can neither be fully achieved in the absence of sustained development nor through short-term relief measures or piecemeal reforms of international economic relations,

"Bearing in mind that many economic problems are globally interlinked and that the most compelling challenges facing the world community are the acceleration of development, eradication of poverty, and the need to bridge the gap between the developed and developing countries and to forge genuine international economic cooperation for development,

"Reaffirming that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community,

"Noting the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in encouraging the developed and the developing countries to engage in a constructive dialogue and negotiations for advancing development and in facilitating their efforts in that regard,

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5/ Resolution 41/128.

6/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

7/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

8/ TD/364, part one, sect. A, "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992.

9/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

"Convinced that the commitment to cooperation and partnership for development which has been evolving in various forums in recent years constitutes a good foundation from which to advance and promote international economic cooperation for development, which commitment has been clearly manifested in several documents, especially the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 3/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/ the Declaration on the Right to Development, 5/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 6/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 7/ the Cartagena Commitment 8/ adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 9/ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Further convinced of the importance of continuing to build upon the spirit of cooperation and partnership for development through the renewal of the dialogue between the developed and developing countries for the purpose of creating a just and equitable system of international economic relations,

"1. Reaffirms the urgent need to renew the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

"2. Reaffirms further that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the economic imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence and shared responsibilities, and that it should be carried out in the context of the United Nations system;

"3. Reiterates the central role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, in his report on an agenda for development, an in-depth analysis and specific recommendations on ways and means to renew the dialogue, taking into account the progress achieved in the realization of the commitments referred to in the eighth preambular paragraph above and the critical need for their full implementation."

7. At its 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.28/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.28, joined by Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania and the United States of America.

8. The Committee was informed that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.28/Rev.1) without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

10. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Indonesia made a statement (see A/C.2/48/SR.47).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.74 and L.87

11. At the 46th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Colombia on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "An agenda for development" (A/C.3/58/L.74), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/181 of 22 December 1992 on an agenda for development,

"Convinced of the need to elaborate a framework to promote international consensus in the field of development,

"Committed to strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors and recognizing, in this respect, the need to revive the role of the United Nations in fostering and promoting international cooperation for economic and social development,

"Taking note of the views expressed by Member States on an agenda for development,

"Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to issue in the early months of 1994 the report requested in its resolution 47/181,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the progress report of the Secretary-General; 10/

"2. Invites the President of the General Assembly to promote, in an open-ended format in early 1994, further consultations among Member States on an agenda for development, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General requested in Assembly resolution 47/181;

"3. Also invites the President of the General Assembly to request relevant programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as relevant multilateral institutions, to present their views on an agenda for development within those consultations;

"4. Further invites the President of the General Assembly to consider broadening the scope of those consultations by inviting contributions from, inter alia, scientific and academic institutions;

"5. Invites the President of the General Assembly to convey a summary of those consultations to the Secretary-General;

10/ A/48/689.

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-ninth session, no later than 1 September 1994, an update of his report on an agenda for development, taking into account the guidelines laid down in its resolution 47/181, the views presented by Member States and the consultations promoted by the President of the General Assembly;

"7. Decides to hold four special plenary meetings, at a high level, at its forty-ninth session, to consider ways of promoting and giving political impetus to an agenda for development;

"8. Decides to include an item entitled 'An agenda for development' in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session."

12. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.87, 11/ submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.74, and orally revised it as follows:

A new operative paragraph 6 was inserted to read as follows:

"Recommends that the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session consider 'An agenda for development' as a possible topic for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1994;"

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

13. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.87, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution III).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.87, draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.74 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

11/ Had the draft resolution been issued as A/C.2/48/L.87/Rev.1, as was the intention of the sponsors, the following countries would have been added to the list of sponsors: Australia, Canada, Portugal and Spain.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Follow-up to the report of the South Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/155 of 19 December 1991, in which it recognized the relevance of the report entitled The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission 12/ in addressing the issues of interest to the South in the 1990s, especially the North-South dialogue, trade, finance, technology, regional cooperation and integration among developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on developments pertaining to the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the South Commission, 13/ which proposed a comprehensive approach to the questions of South-South cooperation,

Welcoming the support given by the United Nations Development Programme in distributing copies of the report of the South Commission in developing countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to draw upon the discussions and conclusions in the report in elaborating an agenda for development;

2. Considers that a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of South-South cooperation worldwide is required to stimulate intergovernmental debate, decisions and actions, as appropriate, within the United Nations system and to promote such cooperation within and between regions of the South, and globally;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive report entitled "State of South-South cooperation", containing quantitative data and indicators on all aspects of South-South cooperation and to be prepared with the help of all relevant organizations of the United Nations, including in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

4. Calls upon all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the regional commissions and subregional organizations, to provide analytical and empirical materials for the preparation of the report;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit his report on the state of South-South cooperation to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and the Assembly will decide on the need for further reports on the matter.

12/ New York, Oxford University Press, 1990. For an overview and summary of the report of the South Commission, see A/45/810 and Corr.1, annex.

13/ A/48/350.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the validity of the objectives and commitments with regard to development adopted by the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies, especially the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 14/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 15/ the Declaration on the Right to Development, 16/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 17/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 18/ the Cartagena Commitment, 19/ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, 20/ which provide an overall framework for furthering international economic cooperation for development,

Noting the ongoing work of the Secretary-General in the preparation of a report on an agenda for development, as requested in its resolution 47/181 of 22 December 1992,

Recognizing the trends towards regional cooperation and integration, interdependence of nations and the globalization of economic issues and problems,

Convinced that universal peace, security and prosperity cannot be fully achieved in the absence of economic and social development and improvements in international economic relations,

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14/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

15/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

16/ Resolution 41/128, annex.

17/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

18/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

19/ TD/364, part one, sect. A, "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992.

20/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

Bearing in mind the interlinkages between economic problems and between the economic and social aspects of development, and aware that among the most compelling challenges facing the world community are the acceleration of development, the eradication of poverty, and the need to address disparities among countries and to forge genuine international economic cooperation and partnership for development,

Reaffirming that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community,

Noting the role of the Secretary-General in encouraging all countries to engage in a constructive dialogue for advancing development and in facilitating their efforts in that regard,

Convinced that the commitment to cooperation and partnership for development, which has been evolving in various forums in recent years, constitutes a good foundation from which to advance and promote international economic cooperation for development, the commitment to which has been clearly manifested in several documents, especially the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 14/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 15/ the Declaration on the Right to Development, 16/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 17/ the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 18/ the Cartagena Commitment, 19/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, 20/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Also convinced of the importance of continuing to build upon the spirit of cooperation and partnership for development through constructive dialogue among all countries, in particular between the developed and developing countries, for the purpose of promoting an international economic environment conducive to sustainable development,

1. Reaffirms the need to strengthen constructive dialogue and partnership in order to promote further international economic cooperation for development;

2. Also reaffirms that such a dialogue should be conducted in response to the imperatives of mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibilities and the partnership for sustainable development as established at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and that the United Nations system should play a central role in facilitating such a dialogue;

3. Further reaffirms that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session an analysis and recommendations on ways and means to

promote such a dialogue, reflecting the ongoing work on an agenda for development and taking into account the progress achieved in the implementation of the commitment referred to in the eighth preambular paragraph above.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

An agenda for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/181 of 22 December 1992 on an agenda for development,

Convinced of the need to elaborate a framework to promote international consensus in the field of development,

Committed to strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors and recognizing, in this respect, the need to revive the role of the United Nations in fostering and promoting international cooperation for economic and social development,

Taking note of the views expressed by States on an agenda for development,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to issue in the early months of 1994 the report requested in its resolution 47/181,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the note by the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/181; 21/

2. Decides that the intergovernmental discussions to consider an agenda for development and the reports of the Secretary-General thereon should be held at the substantive session of 1994 of the Economic and Social Council and at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

3. Invites the President of the General Assembly, in addition, to promote, in an open-ended format, as early as possible in 1994, broad-based discussions and an exchange of views on an agenda for development, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General requested in its resolution 47/181;

4. Also invites the President of the General Assembly, in order to ensure the broad-based nature of those discussions, to invite relevant programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations system, relevant multilateral institutions and other relevant organizations, including scientific and academic institutions, to participate fully in or present their views during those discussions;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session further recommendations, as appropriate, to follow up

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21/ A/48/689.

his report on an agenda for development, taking into account the views expressed during the substantive session of 1994 of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the views presented during the discussions promoted by the President of the General Assembly and summarized under his own responsibility;

6. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session consider "An agenda for development" as a possible topic for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1994;

7. Decides to hold special plenary meetings at a high level, at its forty-ninth session, to consider ways of promoting and giving political impetus to an agenda for development;

8. Decides to include an item entitled "An agenda for development" in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session.